



Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

September 2010

County to recycle plastics effective Friday

Effective Friday, September 3, Henry County will accept plastic for recycling at the five staffed Convenience Center sites. This project is possible through an agreement with EMI Recycling.

The County sites will accept No. 1 and No. 2 plastics only. Examples of No. 1 plastics include soda and water bottles, medicine containers, and many other common consumer product containers. Once they have been processed by a recycling facility, the No. 1 plastics can be used again for winter coats, sleeping bags and life jackets. They also can be used to make bean bags, rope, car bumpers, tennis ball felt, combs, cassette tapes, sails for boats, furniture and, of course, other plastic bottles.

Number 2 is reserved for high-density polyethylene plastics. These include heavier containers that hold laundry detergents and bleaches as well as milk, shampoo and motor oil. Plastic labeled with the number 2 is often recycled into toys, piping, plastic lumber and rope.

If you are unsure what type of plastic you have, the symbol code is usually a single digit imprinted on the item and surrounded by a triangle of arrows. County sites will only accept plastics with numbers 1 and 2. There is no need to sort, but you are asked to please remove lids and rinse out containers prior to disposal.

The five staffed sites are on Jack Dalton Road behind the County Administration Building in the Collinsville District; Red Oak Road in the Horsepasture District; Axton Road in the Iriswood District; Blackfeather Trail in the Ridgeway District; and the Blackberry Road site in the Blackberry District.

All sites are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. They are open to Henry County residents only.

If you have any questions concerning plastic recycling, please contact Mike Amos at 634-2503.

RTI, state officials visit local site

Officials with RTI International Metals, Airbus, and the Commonwealth of Virginia gathered with local leaders August 31 to provide updates on the RTI facility construction at the Patriot Centre.

Dawne Hickton, CEO with RTI, joined with Airbus CEO Allan McArtor and Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell to deliver remarks. Hickton told the audience that the RTI capital investment at the facility has increased from the expected \$100 million to \$120 million. The plant is expected to be fully operational in 2012, with workers being hired in mid-2011.

National Preparedness Month upon us

There is no better time for Virginians to get ready for emergencies than September, which is National Preparedness Month and the height of hurricane/flood season.

Virginia residents have suffered through many disasters, including recent severe winter weather and extensive flooding from last November's nor'easter. Emergencies such as these motivate many to prepare ahead of time, but research shows that there is still plenty to do. Take these simple,

low-cost steps during September to prepare and protect your family:

- Make a family emergency plan. In a recent survey, just 15% of Virginia respondents had a written family emergency plan. This may be the single most important thing you can do for your family. Sit down as a family and plan in advance what you will do in an emergency and how you will get in touch with each other. Write it down. Get a family emergency plan worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Making a plan is free and simple and will make a difference.
- Choose an out-of-town emergency contact. The same survey showed that 56% of Virginia respondents said they have not identified an out-of-town person for family members to contact in case of emergency. It's very important to choose an out-of-town relative or friend for your family to call because families may not be together when an emergency happens, and often it's easier to make a long distance call than a local call during emergencies. So choose someone now as your family's emergency contact, and make sure each person in your family has that phone number. When an emergency happens, no matter where your family members are, they each should call the out-of-town contact and say they are OK. Then the out-of-town contact can in turn call the other family members to relay messages.
- Store a three-day supply of water. About 90% of those who took the survey said they have a three-day supply of canned and packaged food on hand, but only 57% had enough water. The rule of thumb is to store one gallon of water per person per day. It's best to plan to be self-sufficient in an emergency for a minimum of three days. So if there are four in your family, you need to stock 12 gallons of water. This is enough for drinking and personal hygiene.
- Make a plan for your pets. Many emergency shelters will not accept pets other than service animals. Talk to your veterinarian or local humane society now about an emergency plan for your pets. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. Get a pet emergency supply kit.

Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. If you're not ready, make your plan during National Preparedness Month. For more information, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov.

Martinsville Speedway gets upgrades, two-race guarantee

Virginia Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling and state and local officials recently announced a Tobacco Commission grant and other initiatives that will help provide an enhanced fan experience at Martinsville Speedway.

The Tobacco Commission awarded Martinsville Speedway a grant of \$1.5 million, which will be matched by Martinsville Speedway for a \$3 million project to upgrade facility infrastructure.

As part of the agreement with the Tobacco Commission, International Speedway Corporation (ISC) has committed to two Sprint Cup races annually at Martinsville Speedway for at least the next five years.

Bolling, the Chief Jobs Creation Officer for the Commonwealth, also announced that the Virginia Department of Transportation had already begun work on the construction of a new on/off ramp on US 58 adjacent to the speedway, which will improve traffic flow on race weekends.

The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) has also committed to help promote Martinsville Speedway's Sprint Cup events in its nation-wide marketing campaigns. Earlier this summer the VTC announced it would also sponsor Martinsville Speedway's annual Late Model Stock Car event, which is now The Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300.

"Martinsville Speedway contributes greatly to the economy of the Commonwealth as a whole, and especially to the economy of Southern Virginia. That's why it was so important for us to make certain that we retained two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races at Martinsville every year," said Bolling. "I am delighted that we were able to accomplish this goal, and I thank Clay Campbell and our friends at International Speedway Corporation for working with Governor McDonnell and our Commonwealth of Virginia partners to make this possible. We look forward to their continuing presence in Martinsville for many years to come."

Henry County Board of Supervisors Chairman Debra Buchanan lauded the Speedway's history. "We were a key part of NASCAR's past, and we are a key part of the present," she said. "Today's announcement verifies that our presence will continue into the future. Henry County has said many, many times that we would do whatever we could to ensure that Martinsville Speedway, and by extension this community, remain a part of NASCAR's future."

Commenting on today's announcement in Martinsville, ISC President John Saunders said, "In consideration of this partnership, we've pledged to not petition NASCAR for the realignment of a

Martinsville Sprint Cup Series date for at least the next five years. We realize that NASCAR awards sanctions on a yearly basis and that a race date is never guaranteed. But, we work hard to ensure our facilities meet NASCAR's standards for safety, promotion and other factors taken into consideration for awarding sanctions. We are confident in our ability to continue meeting their thresholds for hosting outstanding Sprint Cup Series races for our fans and guests."

"Martinsville is a tremendously popular track with both fans and drivers and we recognize its importance to the traditions of the sport. We're especially proud of the partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia to help further enhance the fan experience at Martinsville through capital investments both in and outside the facility.

"Today's announcement is the result of so much hard work by so many people over the past six months. I've never seen so many come together and work together so hard, so well, for such a long period," said Martinsville Speedway President W. Clay Campbell. "The result is that our fans are going to have a much better experience and the economy of this area is going to benefit in a big way.

"The steps we are taking with help from many partners will ensure we keep fans coming back to Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville and Henry County and the Commonwealth of Virginia for many years to come."

According to Frith Construction Company, general contractor for the improvement project, the equivalent of 50 fulltime jobs will be created for the duration of that project. Also, 94 percent of all subcontractors and vendors will come from the immediate area.

Work will begin on the first phase of the infrastructure upgrades immediately after the TUMS Fast Relief 500 on October 24 and will be finished before Goody's Fast Pain Relief 500 on April 3. Campbell said because of time constraints between events, the construction would be done in several phases between events.

For more information about the Henry County, Virginia., visit The Official Website of Henry County, Virginia at <http://www.henrycountyva.gov>.

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